

**East Greenwich School Committee**

**Tuesday, August 17, 2010**

**Town Council Chambers**

**125 Main Street**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA MAY BE SUBJECT TO A VOTE**

**6:00p.m. Executive Session, Vote to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under General Laws of Rhode Island 42-46-5 (a (1) and (a (2). Superintendent Evaluation; Potential Litigation—Fields Project, Teacher Grievance**

**7:00p.m. Regular Meeting**

**I. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

**August 17, 2010 School Committee meeting was held at the East Greenwich Town Hall. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Vice-chair Anne Palumbo called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. All present were Susan Records; Mary Ellen Winters; Deidre Gifford; and Paul Martin as well as Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration and Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent of Schools.**

**II. Public comments - There were no public comments**

### **III. III. Recognitions**

**School Committee adopted a Scholarship of two, \$1,000.00 high school winners. The money was donated by various members of the School Committee. Derek Bates was the winner of \$1,000.00.**

### **IV. Superintendent's Report**

**Dr. Mercurio stated that he would make a brief update on the school flu immunization clinic. He has had a couple of conference calls on the subject. There will be two clinics held at the high school. The first clinic will be on Friday, November 5 and the second on Thursday, December 2. When he receives more information, he will pass it along. Dr. Mercurio referenced an article in the Providence Sunday Journal about the new high school reform regulations. The new regulations will take effect in 2012. Districts will not be able to award diplomas if regulations are not met. There will be huge changes with the state in 2012. As soon as I get further information on this, I will pass it along. Dr. Gifford asked whether E.G. was mentioned in the article. Victor answered, "Yes. Mr. Podraza is right on target with the common planning time."**

### **V. Approval of Minutes**

**a. On a motion made by Mrs. Records and seconded by Mrs. Winters the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of June 13 Regular and Executive Sessions and August 2 Regular Session. (1 Minor change on page 6 of the regular session of July 13. Remove sentence under VII.) The motion passed unanimously.**

## **VI. Action Items**

### **a. Parental Leave Extension**

**1. A motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mrs. Records to approve**

**the Parental Leave Extension for Julie Wortman, Teacher at Cole Middle School,**

**effective August 30, 2010 until January 28, 2011. The motion passed**

**unanimously.**

### **b. Leave of Absence**

**1. On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mrs. Records to approve the Leave of Absence of Swati Shah, Paraprofessional at Frenchtown School, effective August 31, 2010, for one year. The motion passed unanimously**

### **c. Appointments**

**1. On a motion made by Mrs. Records and seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the appointment of Tamra Bouchard, Grade Six Teacher at Hanaford, effective August 30, 2010. The motion passed unanimously**

**2. On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the appointment of Allison Hunt, Science Teacher at Cole Middle, effective August 30, 2010, for one year only. The motion passed unanimously**

**3. Grade Six Teacher, 1.0 full-time, at Hanaford, effective August 30, 2010 – On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mrs. Records the Grade 6 Teacher at Hanaford was tabled on Dr. Mercurio recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.**

**4. On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the appointment of Charles Picard, Maintenance Worker, and effective July 12, 2010. The motion passed unanimously**

**5. On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the appointment of Patricia Dulac as .2 ALP Math – One Year Only, effective August 30, 2010. The motion passed unanimously.**

**d. Resignation**

**1. On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mrs. Records to approve the resignation of Jeannine Nota-Masse, High School Principal. The motion passed unanimously.**

**e. Home School Request On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mrs. Records to approve the home school request for a High School Student Grade 12. The motion passed unanimously.**

**f. Building Project Change Orders**

**Mr. Kenneth Romeo of Strategic Building Solutions stated that in the fall, the Building Committee will go through the survey provided by structural engineers regarding property abutters at Cole. We are moving right along at the exterior of the rear of the building, Area A. We are moving around to Area B, Cedar Avenue. The plumbing in all areas of the building is done. Interior partitions are going up.**

**The high school will be ready for September. We are moving right**

along. Doors are in, with the plumbing, electricity and painting almost complete. The furniture for the guidance suite will be delivered next week. We will have the ribbon cutting on August 31, 2010 at 4:00 P.M.

Mr. Martin asked whether there will be any loose ends.

Mr. Romeo said, “Yes, typical punch list items – painting, furniture, plumbing, electrical, miscellaneous things.” However, we do have a serious issue with the roof. The main concern is the leak over the new guidance suite that is actively leaking. The Town Council has agreed to a joint meeting with the School Committee to discuss the allocation of \$283,000.00 to fix this area of the roof.

Meadowbrook Farms School’s flooring moisture problem has arisen again. We have discovered that under the slab there is no moisture barrier, so moist air is coming in. Also, more moist air is coming in from outside through a variety of ways. The cost could run from \$ 2.5 million to \$5.7 million. Mr. Romeo stated that the engineering firm hired, SGH, is recommending replacing the flooring and an upgrade of the air conditioning system at a cost of \$2.9 million.

Dr. Gifford stated that the School Committee is uncomfortable with repairing it again. It is a lot of money. We need to have a joint meeting with the Town Council.

**Mr. Romeo stated that RIDE Housing Aid will change their original 30% reimbursement to approximately 40% reimbursement for the Cole and High School projects. This is very good news for East Greenwich residents. We will be meeting with RIDE officials again next week.**

**Mr. Romeo stated that the original roof on the high school has two layers and it may contain hazardous materials. He said that he thought the price was a fair one. When asked if the principal’s office is ready, he responded, “Yes.” Dr. Gifford stated that the Building Committee recommended repairing just part of the roof. Mr. Romeo stated that the immediate urgency is the area over the new guidance suite. Here are the figures for the roof project.**

- 1. Guidance Suite.....\$283,000.00**
- 2. Guidance Suite and Library.....\$545,000.00**
- 3. Entire Complex.....\$2 million**

**Dr. Gifford stated that she was concerned that we only had 2 bids for the high school roof.**

**Mr. Romeo stated that the turnaround time was short. I would suggest that we go forward at this time with the urgent piece and then take the time to put out bids for the rest and we would get better results. If we repair the roof over the guidance suite, we are looking at fall completion. There will be no damage to the inside. It should take about five weeks to complete. We have a state of the art facility**

and it should be protected. The disruption is less intrusive than one would think.

On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mrs. Records to approve spending the \$283,000.00 for a new roof over the guidance suite. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Mercurio will schedule a meeting with the Town Council for a joint meeting on Monday,

August 23, 2010 to discuss the \$283000.00.

g. Facilities Rental Policy On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mr. Martin to

table Facilities Rental Policy. The motion passed unanimously.

h. Policy for appointment of Advisory Committee

Dr. Gifford explained that there should be two different kinds of committees, Advisory Committees and Ad Hoc Committees. The community should be made aware of these committees by the School Committee .

The Advisory Committees are permanent committees that will work on multiple issues within the Charter. This Committee will not be subject to open meetings act requirements unless there are more than 3 School Committee members present. All meetings are open to the public, and meeting times, dates and locations will be posted.

**A brief application will be completed. The final selection will be made by a vote by the School Committee.**

**The Ad Hoc Committees are for a limited time on single issues. The committees should consist of members who have expertise on the subject at hand. Members of an Ad Hoc committee may be suggested by the School Committee with other vehicles of advertisement used, for example, local media, and the PTG.**

**i. Policy on process for hiring administrators 2nd read On a motion made by Mrs. Records and seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the policy process of hiring administrators. The motion passed unanimously.**

**j. Contract Approval Meadowbrook Farms Principal On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mrs. Records to approve the contract of Ronald Areglado, Meadowbrook Farms Principal ( 1 year only). The motion passed unanimously.**

**k. Interim Principal at East Greenwich High School On a motion made by Dr. Gifford and seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the appointment of Joseph Militello, Interim Principal at EGHS. The motion passed unanimously.**

**l. Contract Approval High School Assistant Principal On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the contract of Michael Podraza, HS Assistant Principal. The motion passed unanimously.**

**m. Public Comments-Carl Hoyer of Middle Road – “Every since**



**Meadowbrook Farms was built in 1968, it has been a millstone around the necks of the taxpayers of East Greenwich, and we continue to pour money into it. I say, no. On Friday, in the early A.M., I could hear banging and beeping sounds coming from the Cole building site. There is an ordinance in East Greenwich, Ch. 152.6 Paragraph G ‘No noise before 7:00 A.M.’ Perhaps they wanted to beat the heat of the day by starting early. However, we do have a law here in town. I want to thank the School Committee for the job you do and I respect you.”**

## **VII. Discussion Items**

## **VIII. School Committee Concerns**

**Mrs. Records expressed concerns whether there would be a change in the technology policy committee. Dr. Gifford said, “No, only if you want there to be a change.” Mrs. Records would like to set a change on the agenda for September 7.**

## **IX. Adjournment**

**On a motion made by Mrs. Records and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:20 P.M.**

**Secretary,**

**Margaret M. Ucci**